

REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE FACT SHEET (RGGI)

Goals

RGGI is a cooperative effort among the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island & Vermont to cap and reduce CO₂ emissions from the power sector.¹ RGGI began in 2008 and is ongoing.

Benefits

RGGI provides many of the same benefits as other energy efficiency and renewable energy programs including supply cost reductions, T&D cost reductions, economic development and environmental improvements. RGGI provides a clear directive for greenhouse gas emission reductions with strong accountability and tracking.

Costs

RGGI also has many of the same costs as other energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, including potential increases in electricity prices and economic losses due to increased electricity prices. Unlike other renewable energy programs there are no direct generation fleet costs, integration costs or decreases in the competitive space for electricity providers.

The PUC reports that RGGI costs approximately 46 cents/month for residential customers across the RGGI region in 2010² and, "...overall, the average monthly electricity bill through 2020 for residential, commercial and industrial customers in Maine is projected to increase by between .8% and 1.4% or:

- \$0.42 on an average household bill of \$49.57
- \$4.08 on an average commercial bill of \$289.23
- \$63.17 on an average industrial bill of \$4,812.23

This impact on electricity bills throughout the RGGI participating states is estimated on an overall average basis. Customers who participate in energy efficiency programs funded by additional RGGI allowance proceeds could realize smaller bill increases or bill decreases resulting from reduced electricity usage."

¹ <http://www.rggi.org/>

² See Report by the Public Utilities Commission to the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee Regarding LD 1851, "An Act to Establish the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative" pg. 3 citing *About the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)*, Available at www.rggi.org